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Rocky Mountain Regional Office Report

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Vol. I No. 1

Winter 1978

HUSU Opens Rocky Mountain Regional Office

The Humane Society of the United States, in its continuing effort to serve its members and local animal welfare groups and increase its ability to prevent cruelty to animals, has opened a new regional office in the Rocky Mountain area. Mr. John A. Hoyt, President of The Humane Society of the United States, announced the creation of this office effective September 15, 1978 and indicated that it will be responsible for the states of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Arizona. Located in Denver, Colorado the Rocky Mountain office will provide technical assistance and aid to sheltered and non-sheltered societies and animal control agencies, encourage humane education programs, review and evaluate municipal ordinances and state codes pertaining to the protection of animals, investigate complaints of cruelty, abuse, and neglect, and be a resource to individuals and organizations concerned about and involved in the welfare of animals.

This office is an integral part of the network of regional services developed by The HSUS permitting constituents in the vicinity to have more direct access to resources of the national organization. Members of the Rocky Mountain Region staff include Donald W. Cashen, Director, Phil Steward, Investigator, and Peggy Napper, Secretary. In addition, Ms. Leslie Eustace, Accreditation Associate, will be a part of the staff working out of this office and be responsible not only for the Rocky Mountain Region but for the entire western half of the United States.

Utah Observes Humane Education Week

By special proclamation of Governor Scott W. Matheson the State of Utah set the week of 5-12 November 1978 as Humane Education Week. This public declaration by the Chief Executive Officer of Utah is the result of the efforts of Mrs. Carol Browning and Mrs. Rosemary Benning who together labored tenaciously to introduce humane education to the public school system of that state. An integral part of their work included the prepara-

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Donald W. Cashen, Director,
Rocky Mountain Regional Office

Prior to serving as the director for the Rocky Mountain Region, Mr. Cashen served as the executive director of the Indianapolis Humane Society. A former Presbyterian clergyman, Don holds an undergraduate degree in psychology, a master's degree in theology, and M.Ed. degree in counseling, and is currently a doctoral candidate in adult education in Columbia University, New York. In addition, he is a non-matriculated student in the department of business administration at the Indiana-Purdue universities located in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mr. Phil Steward has served The Humane Society of United States as an investigator for many years and has a law enforcement background in the state of California. Phil is acquainted with the Rocky Mountain area and brings invaluable skills and experience to his new assignment.

Mrs. Peggy Napper is not a stranger to The HSUS. She served Mr. Patrick B. Parkes, vice president of the Washington based organization as secretary and is extremely knowledgeable about HSUS policies and philosophy. Her responsibilities will include management of the regional office, providing information to constituents and friends, and maintaining records.

Ms. Leslie Eustace, functioning under the guidance of Ms. Phyllis Wright works with local animal agencies who seek assistance and/or HSUS accreditation. Before assuming her new duties, Leslie served as shelter manager for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in New York City.

HSUS Conference Highlights

The 1978 annual conference of The Humane Society of the United States, convened in Dearborn, Michigan, provided conferees with valuable insights and practical ideas for the prevention of cruelty to animals. Dr. Amy Freeman Lee, member of The HSUS board of directors inspired the three hundred plus participants with a keynote address which served as the framework for the conference. Other speakers included Dr. Leon Weiss of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, and Drs. Andrew Rowan and Michael Fox of HSUS's Institute for the Study of Animal Problems. Workshops focused upon the following topics: investigations and prosecutions, marine animals, shelter management, accreditation standards, biomedical research, education, animal control, factory farming, and the media.

Mr. John A. Hoyt, President of The HSUS offered his President's Report at the annual membership meeting. We are unable to replicate verbatim the entire text of that insightful report. However, we wish to offer a brief excerpt which succinctly speaks to the 1978 conference theme and poignantly addresses the issue of our mutual concern.

"A final quality I wish to mention which is basic to an animal welfare organization's effectiveness and vitality is that of sensitivity or caring concern. It is, I believe, that quality which distinguishes between superficiality and genuine leadership...I am proud that The HSUS gives it a place of promise. For except we really care, and are genuinely sensitive to the reality of pain and suffering being experienced by animals in so many ways, we shall find it all too easy to compromise our objectives and give in to the pressures of our adversaries...There comes a point when a people, or an organization of people, must stand up and be counted for what to them seems right and against that which they believe to be wrong...It is a matter of sensitivity and concern, a matter of caring enough to believe enough to be what one believes."

The enthusiastic response of the conferees lent support to the collective belief that the annual meeting again proved to be an invaluable experience. If you were unable to attend this year's meeting, we urge you to plan now for the 1979 conference to be held in Orlando, Florida. You will never regret the commitment of time or funds.

Pressman visits Colorado Zoos

While attending the annual conference of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums convened in Denver, Ms. Sue Pressman, Director of Wild Life Protection for The HSUS, visited several zoos in Colorado. Among those was the facility in Pueblo.

In her evaluation report Ms. Pressman commended the personnel of the City Park Zoo for the splendid cooperation which exists between the zoo staff, society, veterinarians and zoo keepers. In addition, Ms. Pressman noted that the park was "attractive, well manicured, ... (and) exhibits quite well executed". However, other areas were not only aesthetically poor, but, in the opinion of Ms. Pressman, cruel. Specifically, those areas accommodating the polar bear, mammals and hoof stock. Ms. Pressman recommended that the polar bear have better protection from visitors who maybe inclined to injure the animal, and that there be better space utilization in the mammal house. In addition, it was recommended that a



Leslie Eustace, Accreditation Associate

HSUS Introduces New Logo

The logo on the masthead of this regional report was introduced at the recent annual conference held in Dearborn, Michigan, October 11-15, 1978. After much thought and research, the executive staff of the national office concluded that the current HSUS logo did not adequately express the concerns of the organization and set out to explore an alternative which would more succinctly reflect our purposes.

The circle, expressed with the name of the organization, encompasses four hands each of which bears the likeness of an animal. The circle connotes the integrity of all life forms and draws to gether the oneness and unity of the earth we share. The hands symbolize man's role in insuring that animals will be protected and guarded against any form of mistreatment, abuse, or neglect. Implicit in this logo is the interdependence of life in whatever form and a clear suggestion that all relationships are sacred and, therefore, deserving of reverence and kindness.

The old logo served us well; the new one will served us better and speaks eloquently to our major purpose of preventing cruelty to all animals.

Coffee and . . .

Experience has taught us that one of the most meaningful ways to discuss common concerns about the world of animals, and the work of The Humane Society of the United States is in small groups. Such settings not only permit but encourage a free flow of questions related to the issues of legislation, sterilization and education.

We invite interested parties to host a "Coffee and..." group in your home. As host you will be responsible for extending invitations to guests of your choosing. We suggest that the group not be larger than 10 or 12 individuals. Members of the Rocky Mountain Region staff will be available to you, and more than happy to serve as convener for such get-togethers. To arrange a house meeting, please contact Donald W. Cashen, Director of the Rocky Mountain Regional office.

Comment

Donald W. Cashen



William Morris in his familiar works "The Earthy Paradise" said this,

*"Dreamer of dreams,
born out of my due time,
Why should I strive
to set the crooked straight?
Let it suffice me
that my murmuring rhyme
Beats with light wing
against the ivory gate,
Telling a tale
not to importunate
To those who
in the sleepy region stay,
Lulled by the singer
of any empty day..."*

Morris who is well known for his utopian literature, is speaking to our current condition and offers a perspective which we in the humane movement would do well to explore. In essence, he is satirizing those attitudes and values which cause us to withdraw from the world of conflict or difficulty, electing instead to speak eloquently from the podium of insignificance. Needless to say, to take a firm unflinching position against the wind causes little discomfort and less personal sacrifice. However, when we "strive to set the crooked straight" we risk much and put ourselves in a vanguard of the eternal battle, waged on behalf of those unable to speak for or to defend themselves against the incontrovertible tides of cruelty and neglect.

I speak specifically of the issue of animal rights and the humane ethic which embraces them. To stand with them is to risk much - we will occasionally know the ridicule of the unsympathetic and the scorn of those imprisoned in a medieval value orientation which dictates that animals are the feelingless forms of social obsolescence.

It requires little imagination and less courage to conclude that the situation is either hopeless or inconvenient. To offer either as an excuse for the non-involvement is to rationalize our position of lethargy and defend our insensitivity.

Soon or late we hear ourselves telling a tale not too important - perhaps a better word is insignificant in that it guarantees not to offend - to the sleepy listener. We must not be lulled by those "singer(s) of an empty day" who would have us believe there is nothing immoral or obscene in the current condition of animals.

I believe we are engaged in a life-long struggle against the custodians of ignorance and prejudice which regularly invade our good intentions and vitiate our noble cause by weakening the very foundations on which we stand. My great dream is that we will one day achieve that utopia for which we strive. To this end, I invite you to travel with me through the corridors of man's gallery where we can view the great portraits of what can be. There you will see depictions of the noble artwork of life - reverence, regard, kindness, courage, cooperation, and love. Together we could build this gallery and more, and exist in it in a new world.

A Time of Giving

While the practice of gift giving is not reserved for the Christmas Season alone, particular emphasis is placed upon the tradition of gifts as an expression of affection and concern. As you prepare your list of potential recipients and appropriate gestures for each, we encourage you to include a membership in The Humane Society of the United States.

With appropriate apologies to William Shakespeare a gift is indeed twice blessed and its benefit falls meaningfully upon the recipient and the animals who are also beneficiaries of your contributions. In addition to all the privileges that pertain to a membership in The HSUS including the quarterly Humane Society News, the recipient also knows that his/her membership provides crucial financial resources to us that assist in the reduction of cruelty to animals.



Make their Christmas a special time

(Photo by Paul Duckworth)

Enclosed in this issue of the Rocky Mountain Regional Report you will find a return envelope which identifies the various membership categories available to you. If the membership is for someone other than yourself, please include your name on the flap portion of the envelope so that we may acknowledge your gift accordingly. The gift expresses your affection for both a friend or acquaintance and for the world of animals generally.

The Report is published by the Rocky Mountain Regional Office of The Humane Society of the United States, 1780 South Bellaire Street, Suite 103, Denver, Colorado 80222. Telephone: (303) 759-8880.

Donald W. Cashen... Executive Director
Philip Steward... Field Representative
Peggy Napper... Secretary
Leslie Eustace... Accreditation Associate



Carol Browning, left, Donald Cashen, center, Donald Searles, right rear, visit Ogden Nature Center with young guests

Utah Observes Ed. Week. . . .

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tion of appropriate curriculum which was then distributed throughout the metropolitan school districts of Utah. The Sharing Units, prepared by the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education, a division of The HSUS, were circulated and made available to the teachers and others in the field of education.

The celebration of this commendable achievement took place on Wednesday 8 November at a special recognition dinner held at the Atla Club in Salt Lake City. In attendance at that dinner were representatives from the media, local and state governments, school districts throughout the state including the State Board of Education, the Junior League, and The HSUS. Representing the Humane Society of the United States was Harold H. Gardiner, member of the Board of Directors, and Donald W. Cashen, Director of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Denver. Presenting the certificates of appreciation to the State Board of Education and the Junior League was Ms. Debra Clinger, television celebrity currently featured on the CBS program, "The American Girls."

The Humane Society of the United States

Rocky Mountain Regional Office
1780 South Bellaire Street
Denver, CO 80222

A Living Memorial

Each of us seeks ways to insure that our contributions have lasting value and will adequately represent us when we are no longer able to speak for ourselves. Your will is the most valuable instrument you will ever prepare as a means of accomplishing this purpose. Properly drawn it represents your intentions and desires and is an excellent way of reflecting your concern for the well-being of animals.

The Humane Society of the United States will make available to you, without obligation, an informative booklet which will serve as a guide to you in this important matter. It contains information on selecting recipients and describes how to proceed when you decide to write or change your will.

In complete confidence, write to:

Mr. Murdaugh Stuart Madden, Vice President/General Counsel
Humane Society of the United States
2100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Pressman Visits Zoos. . . .

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zoological director be employed with appropriate credentials to meet the responsibilities of that office, and that additional animal attendants be hired to more adequately attend the needs of the exhibits.

One problem which Ms. Pressman encountered was that of the health of the polar bear. Apparently the health of the animal is such that alternative plans must be considered for his disposition. In this instance, and others that are comparable to it, The Humane Society of the United States urges zoo personnel to consider euthanasia rather than attempting to trade or give away aged or infirmed animals. We understand the concerns of the staff in their attempt to maintain good public relations, particularly with those who have made contributions to the organization. However, euthanasia is a far more humane method of animal disposition and requires educating the community.

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